

The Altenburg Case

By GEORGE DYRE ELDRIDGE

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By George Dyre Eldridge

(Continued from Page 10.)

44 and gave the number as eight-

four-two.

"Yes, and held the wire until the

connection was got. It might have

been any old number for all we know.

Whoever did it knew that trick of the

telephone, anyway. The same thing

happened with Malbon, didn't it?"

"No, some one called Grimbleshaw

from Altenburg, and I have no doubt

now that some one did, he was in a

hurry, and naturally held on to the

wire. If it was the man who did the

job he was in a hurry to get away. If

he was some one else, he knew the

need of quick help."

"Now look here, Trafford," said Fry,

seating himself at last at the other

side of the table, "let's talk sense and

imagine sense if we're going to take

imagination as our guide, as seems to

be on the carpet. What would the

man who did the job want to call a

doctor for?"

"Assume it was an accident."

"He'd have stayed until the doctor

was there."

"Even a man who made it a point

of his coming that he was to be seen

by no one?"

"He'd have forgotten that under the

new condition of affairs."

Trafford, the most patient of men,

gave attention to this aspect of the

matter. He turned it over to see if

there was any phase that had been

neglected. Then he glanced up with—

"Well? Next?"

"That closes that chapter. The man

who did the job didn't call Grimbles-

shaw. What then? You assume that

somebody found the man after he was

done for and that he called Grimbles-

shaw. That's only a little more ridi-

culous than the other. Where did he

come from, and, above all, what be-

came of him?"

"Grimbleshaw found people there

ransacking the house."

"So Grimbleshaw says."

"So, Phil Barber says, too."

"Phil Barber says enough things to

make a dozen men's reputations as

first-class liars. When this thing is

over to lie like Phil Barber" will be-

come a proverb of Lancelotti."

"Well?"

"It's altogether too complicated. We

know that Altenburg had some deal-

ings with Grimbleshaw; we know that

those dealings concerned some over-

due notes Grimbleshaw had given—"

"No, we don't know that," inter-

rupted Trafford. "Don't let's put it

any stronger than the facts."

"Well, we guess, if that suits better

for this particular phase of the busi-

ness, though the Lord knows things

that we don't know how to well. We

guess that certain overdue notes given

by Grimbleshaw had come into Alten-

burg's hands and were the subject of

the dealings between the two. Grimb-

leshaw has a talk with Altenburg

over the phone, and certainly doesn't

pay the notes, for Altenburg is going

to call him up again. Before he can

do it Altenburg is murdered. Grimbles-

shaw discovers the murder and tells a

cock-and-bull story of being called on

the telephone. He is called on the

telephone, but nobody knows from

where. The call suggests Altenburg,

whom he is expecting will call him—

"Hold on," interrupted Trafford.

"Let's have the story presented as few

difficulties as possible. Altenburg does

call him and tells him he wants that

money. Grimbleshaw sees his chance,

tells him that he will bring it, goes

out, and returns. Altenburg counts

counts naturally for the telephone call,

at least."

"All right," said Fry, who knew the

uselessness of argument when Traff-

ord once mounted his hobby, "only

don't shut the door so tight that there

hain't a crack through which you can

watch this Grimbleshaw."

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William Rogan, 207 Seaview Ave.
Henry Schelbel, 389 Union Ave.
Edward Ness, 253 Bunnell St.
William A. Hallan, 90 Winter St.

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